

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

AF-06 /077 W

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O R 171530Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6035

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1025

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RECOGNITION BY GOP OF MPLA

REF: STATE 37673, STATE 27568

1. MELO ANTUNES SUMMONED ME AT 1:00 P.M. LOCAL TODAY FEB 17 TO DISCUSS ANGOLA. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH HARTMAN WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THAT US WOULD CONSULT GOP BEFORE ANY POLICY CHANGE. I CONFIRMED THIS WAS THE INTENT. HE SAID HE ALSO INTERPRETED HIS CONVERSATION TO MEAN THAT GOP SHOULD CONSULT USG BEFORE IT CHANGES POLICY. PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO (A) BRING ME UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN GOP, (B) ASK IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGES IN USG POLICY AND (C) SEEK USG VIEWS ON WHAT KIND OF APPROACH EUROPEANS MIGHT TAKE TO MPLA, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF MPLA RECOGNITION BY FRANCE.

2. MELO ANTUNES SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED LAST WEEK, AS HAD USG, OF FRANCE'S INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE. THIS HAD SET OFF AN INTENSE DEBATE WITHIN GOP WHICH WAS
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STILL "FAR FROM A CONSENSUS." ANTUNES SAID HIS PERSONAL POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN. HE FELT GOP RECOGNITION WOULD

HELP REDUCE DEPENDENCE OF MPLA ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS.
IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE WEST TO COLLABORATE WITH MORE
MODERATE FACTIONS WITHIN MPLA.

3. ANTUNES SAID HE HAD USED HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS TO
STABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE MPLA, AND WAS CONFIDENT
THAT SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WOULD VINDICATE HIS POSITION.
MPLA IS ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE OF
SOVIETS THROUGH BROADENED RELATIONS WITH WEST. HIS PER-
SONAL CONTACTS HAD SPECIFICALLY INDICATED THEY WOULD
WELCOME RELATIONS WITH US. ANTUNES SAID IF USG WISHED,
HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP US INITIATE AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE
WITH MPLA.

4. I TOLD MELO ANTUNES USG DID NOT INTEND TO RECOGNIZE
MPLA AT PRESENT TIME. I RECOUNTED FOR HIM OUR EFFORTS
WITH THE EUROPEANS PER REFTELS. SAID I DID NOT KNOW
HOW FRENCH RECOGNITION WOULD AFFECT THESE EFFORTS.
ANTUNES EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT GOP HAD NOT TAKEN ANY
DECISION AND WAS FAR FROM CONSENSUS, BUT HE WOULD
APPRECIATE A NEW READING FROM WASHINGTON IN LIGHT OF
FRENCH RCOGNITION. I PROMISED TO TRY TO GET BACK TO
HIM TODAY.
CARLUCCI

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